

# INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE INFORMATION AND REGULATORY ACTIONS SUMMARY September 2000

## REGULATORY ACTIONS

**OSHA Standards** - The Record Keeping Standard will not be published by 1 Jan 2001. Therefore, implementation will not occur until 1 Jan 2002.

**OSHA Proposed Rules** – A new House bill, the Workplace Safety and Accountability Act (HR5037), was recently proposed. If passed, the bill would shield an employer from OSHA citations and penalties from the failure of employees to use PPE if provided the employer could show they had implemented required training and provided the PPE.

## OSHA ACTIVITIES

### Fed OSHA and US Postal Service

Federal OSHA will continue to cover the U.S. Postal Service. All 23 states with state OSHA programs covering private sector employees have chosen not to include the Postal Service in their plans.

### OSHA and JCAHO Join Forces

OSHA has signed an extended partnership with the Joint Commission on accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). The two organizations will work together to improve working conditions for healthcare employees.

### OSHA Web Site Getting Lots of Use

Nearly 1 million users per month are logging onto the OSHA site-- <http://www.osha.gov>--and staying there for at least one-half hour. One-third of these users are viewing OSHA standards, and a growing percentage -- one-third and rising -- are spending time on the pages that contain new electronic tools and technical links.

An interactive nursing home tutorial put up on the site September 25 adds to the electronic compliance assistance tools already available on logging, silica and respiratory protection. In the next few weeks, OSHA will add more interactive tools aimed at reducing ergonomic risks in poultry processing, grocery warehousing and computer workstations. Future compliance tools will include "multimedia" features

such as video clips with sound. An upcoming release on hospital safety will feature an emergency room in which users will have a 360-degree view and can "virtually" move around in the space.

To view the electronic compliance tools on the OSHA web site, go to <http://www.osha-slc.gov/dts/osta/oshasoft/osha-advisors.html>.

## **Ergonomics**

With less than 90 days before the end of the year, OSHA still has not sent the final ergonomics rule to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. In addition, with scarcely a month left for campaigning, Congress has still not completed work on the 2001 budget. The government's fiscal year began Oct. 1 and as usual, few spending measures were ready on time. One of the biggest obstacles to final approval of the huge Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriation bills was continuing disagreement between the President and Congress over the ergonomics rule. However, the prognosis for the amendment is not good. Unlike the President, most Republican lawmakers are confronting re-election campaigns and few have forgotten how President Clinton had bested them in last-minute budget battles before.

## **OSHA's Semi-Annual Regulatory Agenda - Selected Actions**

### **Prerule Stage**

- [Process Safety Management for Highly Hazardous Chemicals](#)
- Prevention of Needlestick and Other Sharps Injuries

### **Proposed Rule Stage**

- Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) for Air Contaminants
- Occupational Exposure to Ethylene Oxide
- Plain Language Revision of the Flammable and Combustible Liquids Standard
- Signs, signals, and Barricades

### **Final Rule Stage**

- Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illness
- Ergonomics Programs: Preventing Musculoskeletal Disorders
- Occupational Exposure to Tuberculosis
- Employer Payment for PPE
- Plain Language Revisions to the Exit Routes Standard

### **Long Term Actions**

- Respiratory Protection (Proper Use of Modern Respirators)
- Indoor Air Quality in the Workplace

- Occupational Exposure to Hexavalent Chromium
- Metalworking Fluids: Protecting Respiratory Health
- Fall Protection in the Construction Industry
- Occupational Exposure to Crystalline Silica
- Occupational Exposure to Beryllium
- Walking Working Surfaces and Personal Fall Protection Systems

## **OSHA Enforcement Program**

OSHA will begin conducting inspections of hospitals, nursing homes and department stores. OSHA bases this action on survey results of worker injuries and illness. OSHA's CPL 2 authorizes OSHA to inspect mid- and large-sized sites that employ 40 or more workers where the site has a lost workday injury or illness rate of 14 cases/100 workers or greater. Note: If the initial round of inspections is completed early, OSHA could begin inspecting sites with case rates as low as 8/100.

## **Crisis in Safety and Health Training?**

The National Advisory Committee for Occupational Safety & Health (NACOSH) members are concerned that a crisis will loom over the country's workplaces in the next five to 10 years. Seasoned job safety & health professionals are retiring and few candidates remain to fill their jobs.

## **CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS OF INTEREST**

### **In General**

With the end of the fiscal year approaching, the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress is trying to push as much legislation through as it can. Two industrial hygiene and safety laws, the Small Business Regulatory Relief and the Truth in Regulating Act of 2000 (H.R. 4924) are working their way through committees.

### **House Approves Needlestick Measure**

The House of Representatives approved a bipartisan needlestick safety bill that would require changes in OSHA's bloodborne pathogen standard. The bill (H.R. 5178) would require the agency to expand the definition of engineering controls to include "safer medical devices" that reduce or eliminate employee exposure to sharp points and edges.

The companion bill in the Senate is S.3067 – the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act. The bill was introduced on 19 Sept 00 by Sen. James Jeffords (R-VT). The bill would amend OSHA to revise the bloodborne pathogen standards under the Act.

### **Ergonomics Rule Will Cost States Up to \$9.9 Billion**

The annual state-by-state costs of complying with OSHA's proposed ergonomics regulation might range from \$152 million a year in Wyoming to a high of \$9.9 billion in California, the Employer Policy Foundation (EPF) says. An earlier EPF estimate of the 10-year cost of the regulation topped \$91 billion. These estimates are in sharp contrast to OSHA's estimates of \$4.2 billion annually and \$54 billion over 10 years. EPF believes the OSHA used outdated figures in developing their estimate.

## **TECHNICAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

### **NIOSH Plans New Research on Asbestos & Vermiculite**

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health announces plans for new research into the distribution and concentration of asbestos contamination in vermiculite. Exposure to vermiculite occurs in mining and several other occupational settings. A NIOSH fact sheet describes past and future research efforts into job-related asbestos exposures from vermiculite mining, processing and consumer products.

### **Parkinson's Risk Rises with Solvent Exposure: Study**

The American Academy of Neurology reports that workplace exposure to some common solvents can increase the risk of developing earlier and more severe symptoms of Parkinson's disease. See the Sept 12 issue of the Journal of Neurology. The Italian study of 990 Parkinson's patients found that those exposed to hydrocarbon solvents in common petroleum-based products such as paints and glues were an average of three years younger at the first sign of symptoms.

### **Knee Protection – NIOSH**

Although no specific federal regulation requires knee protection, a recent NIOSH report said this type of personal protective equipment is good for productivity. NIOSH investigated the use of kneepads at the request of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers. The union was concerned that many of its members must kneel while working, and asked if the employer provided knee PPE.

The report said that 515 of the respondents used kneepads and 211 did not. Approximately 27 % had knee problems requiring medical treatment. Of those reporting a knee problem, 33 % reported they had lost from one to 365 days of work because of the problem.

Workers reported that when they worked without kneepads, they suffered pain and inflammation, or they had to "slow down" to prevent injury. The report noted that only 8 % of the workers who had knee protection reported that their employer provided kneepads. "Two-thirds of the pad users felt that the employer had a responsibility for providing them," the report noted.

Although some workers did not wear kneepads, the NIOSH report suggested that workers would "wear them if the design and functioning of the knee pad were improved, or if the pads were provided by the employer." Some workers said they made their own kneepads. Among reported problems with kneepads were uncomfortable support, inadequate resistance to moisture, and low durability and comfort of padding.

NIOSH recommended that employers provide knee PPE to workers who must kneel on the job to reduce pressure on the knee and enable employees to work without pain, discomfort, or inflammation to the knee.

NIOSH also said that PPE manufacturers could survey their customers and make an effort to develop and market knee protection to suit the user's need. Manufacturers also should make replacement padding available for kneepads so users do not have to buy new PPE when the padding wears out.

The institute also suggested that unions take a role by surveying membership on the need for knee protection and the type favored and negotiating a provision for knee protection in their contracts.

### **Air-Purifying Respirator Policy Clarified for Substances With Low Odor**

OSHA has clarified its policy on the use of air-purifying respirators (APRs) to protect workers who are exposed to diisocyanates, a group of chemicals "with poor odor-warning properties."

Under OSHA's respiratory protection, standard employers may use respirators with air-purifying cartridges to protect workers from hazardous chemicals, including those with little or no odor-warning properties.

OSHA responded to 3M and the Alliance for the Polyurethanes Industry by stating APRs are now considered acceptable for atmospheres "not Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH), if appropriate precautions and change out schedules are in place, even for use against substances with poor warning properties."

An Alliance press release noted that under previous regulations, OSHA required the use of supplied-air respirators to protect employees from excessive exposures to gases and vapors with poor odor-warning properties, including common diisocyanates.

Vapors from diisocyanates can cause eye damage, skin irritation, sensitization, and various respiratory ailments. Diisocyanates are contained in chemical compounds widely used in the manufacture of flexible and rigid insulating foams and specialized paints and varnishes. They also are in increasing use in the automobile, auto body repair, and construction industries.

In its press release, the Polyurethanes alliance said that OSHA confirmed that air-purifying respirators may be used when working with substances with poor odor-warning properties provided that:

- a complete respirator program meeting OSHA's requirements is implemented;
- the respirator is equipped with an end-of-service life indicator certified for the contaminant by NIOSH; and
- the employer has data to show that the APR will adequately protect the exposed employees; and
- if there is no end-of-service life indicator appropriate for the chemical and the conditions in the work place, the employer implements a change schedule for canisters and cartridges that is based on objective data that will ensure that canisters and cartridges are changed before the end of their service life.

### **Best Practices - Tips for selecting a Safety and Health Consultant**

#### *Assess needs.*

- Determine internal staff capabilities
- Assess how much funding is available to hire a consultant
- Determine a reasonable timetable for project completion

#### *Define the consultants' role*

- Identify his/her areas of expertise
- Determine how this expertise can enhance the project in question
- Evaluate qualifications
- Critically assess each candidate's capabilities and limitations
- Review a consultant's marketing materials and check for relevant educational background, work experience and professional certifications.
- Obtain references

#### *Meet with prospective candidates to outline the project*

- Explain project objectives
- Define the consultant's role and discuss the timetable for completion
- Ask who would be working on the project and assess their qualifications

#### *Review Proposals*

- Assess whether each proposal has addressed stated needs/requests and whether it provides sufficient details
- Determine whether fees stated are reasonable for the project objectives and scope
- Define essential responsibilities for both company and consultant personnel.

*Request for Proposal.* Although each project is unique, each candidate's proposal should contain several key elements:

- Explanation of services to be offered and how the work will be performed.

- Names and qualifications of key personnel and their project responsibilities.
- Target project start and completion dates.
- Details on all costs and billing procedures.
- References to current/former clients.

### **Greater Exposures to Vermiculite Could Increase Cancer Risk**

Consumers are at little risk of getting cancer or other asbestos-related diseases from use of gardening products containing vermiculite, according to a report released by the EPA (<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/asbestos/verm.htm>). However, EPA officials said that the report raises questions about the potential risk to workers who may use vermiculite products on a regular basis and who face significantly greater exposures.

EPA tested a number of bags of straight vermiculite and potting soil-containing vermiculite. They found low levels of asbestos in a handful of these bags, primarily those bags containing straight vermiculite.

Vermiculite is a naturally occurring granular substance mined in South Carolina, Montana, and Virginia. Naturally occurring vermiculite may contain small amounts of asbestos.

OSHA has asked NIOSH to evaluate worker exposure to asbestos in vermiculite in vermiculite processing operations and landscape nurseries. MSHA will evaluate worker exposure to asbestos in vermiculite mines.

### **NIOSH Chemical Investigation of Plant Brings Noise Survey Recommendation**

During a NIOSH investigation of chemical exposures at a Minnesota injection-molding plant, federal researchers made recommendations to conduct a noise survey.

According to the report, Wonder Industries primarily manufactures plastic corner guards and handles for mattresses, pallet legs and diaper pails. The facility has 14 injection-molding machines; five to seven of which operate on a day-to-day basis. The report noted that plastics that are "over-heated during the injection molding process can release various thermal decomposing products," including CO and formaldehyde.

The request expressed concern over inadequate ventilation and fumes from the various plastics used in the injection-molding process. Workers reported having headaches, dizziness, sore throats, skin rashes, chronic ear problems, and shortness of breath. NIOSH found low levels of many different volatile organic compounds in the injection-molding area. According to the report, formaldehyde and acetaldehyde levels were below OSHA standards. In addition, hydrocarbon and carbon monoxide

levels were very low. NIOSH stated that acetaldehyde and formaldehyde have a carcinogenic potential. It recommended that exposure levels be kept at the lowest feasible concentration.

Management provides the workers with foam earplugs and single strap FFPs; however, the workers are not required to use them. The investigators did not observe any workers wearing personal protective equipment during the site visit.

NIOSH recommended that all PPE should be stored in a single area that is easily accessible to employees. "At the time of the site visit, Wonder Industries, had PPE in many different areas, some of which were easy to find and some which took some time to locate," the report said.

NIOSH recommended employees use of only approved and certified respirators. "The OSHA respiratory protection standard can be referred to for help in choosing the correct respirator and the requirements for a facility respiratory protection program," the report said.

Among other recommendations, NIOSH said the plant should:

- continue appropriate housekeeping and hygiene practices, noting that a regular cleaning schedule will help keep resin dust and scrap plastic pieces to a minimum;
- ensure that exhaust fans in the production area operate continuously; and
- be aware of the potential for heat stress, especially during the summer months, because of the heat generated from the injection-molding machines.

## **INTERNET NEWS**

### **Army IH Web Site One of Top 10 IH Web Sites**

Every OSH professional who goes online has his or her own Top 10 list. The problem is restricting your address book to a manageable size, according to Jerry Laws, editor, Occupational Health and Safety. Here is his listing of the top 10 Not to be Missed Web Sites: (Actually Jerry listed 13 sites but that's OK.)

- <http://www.osha.gov>
- [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs)
- <http://www.msha.gov>
- <http://www.dol.gov>
- <http://www.trucking.org/safetynet/index.html>
- <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/ArmyIH>

This site provides one-stop-shopping for online industrial hygiene information. Don't miss the links page, it covers both environmental health and safety.



- <http://www.icftu.org>
- <http://www.sapaa.com>
- <http://www.datia.org>
- <http://www.hg.org>
- <http://www.fema.gov>
- <http://www.stevenspublishing.com/ohs>
- <http://www.emergency.com>

## **Web-Based Training, A comparison**

*Here is an abstract of an article of Web based training of two companies.*

Web-based training is a form of distance learning that uses the World Wide Web to deliver computer-based instruction. Traditionally delivered on diskettes, CD-ROM or proprietary systems, computer-based instruction is a mature training technology with several advantages over traditional classroom training.

Like other distance learning methods, computer-based instruction accommodates individual student schedules and locations. Computer-based instruction also:

- integrates different media -- video, graphics and sound, almost everything but scratch-and-sniff -- to engage students and enhance the learning experience;
- incorporates learner-controlled training concepts that enhance learning by providing students with control over the path, pace and other features of the learning process; and
- uses frequent exercises and testing to provide responses to students on their progress and to enhance student learning.

Web-based training improves on computer-based instruction in three major areas. Classes run on standard Web browsers, eliminating the need for special computer hardware and software. Combined with Web course delivery, this expands the availability of course material to anyone with a computer and an Internet connection, significantly lowering training delivery costs. Network delivery allows automation of training management, from scheduling of classes to student tracking.

Corporations are rapidly adopting Web-based training as a means to provide cost-effective employee training. Two companies, GoTrain.net and PureSafety.com, are in the vanguard of Web-based health and safety training, helping companies establish Web-based safety, health and environmental training programs.

### **GoTrain.net**

GoTrain.net ([www.gotrain.net](http://www.gotrain.net)) is a corporate training applications service provider serving the utility, petrochemical and manufacturing industries. GoTrain provides each customer with a dedicated, online Training Academy -- essentially a turnkey

corporate Web-based training center. Customers may customize the entrance to their Training Academy with specially designed splash screens. The Training Academy lists courses purchased from GoTrain's course catalog. The catalog has 16 classes and will grow to more than 60 classes by year's end. GoTrain will also develop custom courses or modify existing courses with company-specific content.

GoTrain classes are approximately one hour long and use an "interactive adult learning model" designed to maintain student attention through extensive use of graphics, animation and sound. Classes include voice narration of all content, a feature that can be turned on or off according to user preference. Frequent interactive exercises and "knowledge feedback" quizzes are distributed throughout each class to test student mastery of the concepts covered.

An assessment of the courseware revealed two problems. The first was a blank window discovered when using Netscape Navigator version 4.7.3. The classes ran just fine with Netscape Navigator 4.7 and Microsoft Internet Explorer 5. The second problem was a minor glitch with an exercise in the bloodborne pathogens class. What is critical is a vendor's response, and GoTrain responded quickly with solutions.

### **PureSafety.com**

PureSafety.com ([www.puresafety.com](http://www.puresafety.com)) provides its customers a private training Web site with a distinctive industrial look and feel. Customers can customize their training Web site with a corporate logo and "message from the safety director."

Customers populate their Web site with "lessons" built from local content and from commercially available training classes purchased, online from PureSafety's training partners. Classes come in a variety of formats to include Shockwave training, PowerPoint presentations, and digital versions of videotape training. PureSafety can also develop custom courses or modify existing courses with customer-specific content.

The purchased materials and other content, such as electronic versions of regulations, company policies and Web-based tests, are designated as "tasks" that are assembled into lessons assigned to students. The process is more complicated than the GoTrain method, but very flexible.

One drawback of computer-based instruction is the absence of social interaction with other students and the availability of a teacher to answer questions and clarify concepts. PureSafety includes a basic e-mail messaging system that students can use to contact company safety and health professionals for help with the course material.

## **Web-Based Training Administration**

The administrative functions supplied by GoTrain and PureSafety have the potential to reduce time spent managing and administering corporate safety and health training. These back-office administrative tools go far beyond merely creating and managing employee training accounts. They simplify managing training assignments by "groups."

Training groups, established by the training define a unique set of training requirements. For example, an "engineering" group could be assigned classes in ergonomics and ventilation, a "mechanics" group assigned lockout/tagout training and an "all employees" group assigned corporate safety orientation and hazard communication training.

Assigning an employee to a group automatically schedules the employee for all the training associated with that group. Assigning an employee to multiple groups increases the number of training courses required. Employees can be assigned to individual training courses. In all cases, students are automatically notified by e-mail of pending training assignments.

Reporting is a key component in training administration, and Web-based administrative functions provide a comprehensive set of online reports by group, class and employee. Student online reports are also available to help the student keep track of training assignments and progress.

## **Final Analysis**

The differences between GoTrain and PureSafety offerings are subtle and, to a significant extent, a matter of personal preference. While building PureSafety lessons from a variety of elements provides flexibility, it also means that exercises are added to the lesson as separate training tasks. GoTrain's approach, with interactive exercises integrated into each class, ensures a more consistent look and feel between classes. Both companies work with customers to design a system that meets customers' needs.

GoTrain's administrative functions are easier to use, with fewer menus to navigate, and more effective grouping of information and options on a single screen. In addition, GoTrain's organization of groups into a set of "demographics" facilitates reporting.

## **Learning More About Web-Based Training**

Distance Learning Resources Network's ([www.dlrn.org/](http://www.dlrn.org/)) free Web-based class, Practitioner's Guide to Designing Instruction for Web-Based Distance Learning (<http://www.dlrn.org/educ/course.html>) provides excellent information for anyone interested in Web-based training. The Web site also provides several examples of Web-based training classes at [www.wested.org/tie/dlrn/examples.html](http://www.wested.org/tie/dlrn/examples.html).

## INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE PROFESSIONAL NEWS

### Construction Safety and System Safety Specialty Examinations

The CSP Construction Safety and System Safety Specialties are now available to candidates who hold the Certified Safety Professional® (CSP®) designation. These specialty examinations, offered by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP), are for CSPs who wish to demonstrate their unique competence in construction safety and system safety, respectively.

The *CSP Specialty Examination Handbook* contains additional details about the Construction Safety and System Safety Specialty Examinations. The handbook is available by request at no charge from BCSP. It is also available online at <http://www.bcsp.org/Specialty>. Ergonomics, the first CSP specialty examination offered by BCSP, became available in December of 1998.

### Certified Associate Industrial Hygienist (CAIH).

The American Board of Industrial Hygiene plans to introduce a new industrial hygiene certification in 2001 for those professionals who have IH responsibilities, but do not qualify for the Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) designation. This will include:

- EHS professionals who do not practice IH a majority of their total work time,
- Those who primarily function in a single IH rubric area such as air pollution, ergonomics, health physics, etc. and
- Do not meet the CIH requirement for broad-scope IH work experience.

This certification will be titled the "**Certified Associate Industrial Hygienist**" (**CAIH**) per the ABIH Board meetings on April 1 - 2, 2000.

The basic qualifications will include:

- a bachelors degree with at least 30 semester hours of science and math;
- IH college or PDC courses covering fundamentals, measurements, controls and toxicology;
- four years of post-bachelor, professional-level industrial hygiene experience (at least 25% IH activities); and
- successful completion of a written exam.

The certification tests the applicant's competence in applying the fundamental industrial hygiene knowledge and skills.

As with the CIH certification, a five-year recertification requirement is a part of the process. An application for third party accreditation through the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB) is also submitted.

ABIH has discontinued the ABIH CORE exam. Application materials for the CAIH will be available from the ABIH office and on the web site beginning in the summer of 2000. Contact ABIH for more details at 517/321-2638; Fax: 517/321-4624; email: [abih@abih.org](mailto:abih@abih.org).

### **ACGIH Repetitive Motion TLV Will Not Be Released Until Board Votes**

The recommendation of an industrial hygienists' committee for a workplace repetitive motion exposure limit will remain secret until the group's board of directors votes on the matter later this year, BNA has learned. Harry Mahar, chairman of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) Physical Agents Committee, told BNA Sept. 25 that the committee is charged with recommending action to the board of directors, but that the action is not official until the board votes. An ACGIH official told BNA that the board meeting plans to meet in December.

Prior to its September 15-17 meeting, the Physical Agents Committee published a draft document recommending a threshold limit value (TLV) of four hours for "mono-task" jobs involving the hand, wrist and forearm. A mono-task job was described as one in which a similar set of motions or exertions is performed repeatedly "such as working on an assembly line or using a keyboard and mouse" (30 OSHA 757).

Mahar said that the task of the Physical Agents Committee is to review comments and data and recommend to ACGIH's Board of Directors whether to adopt the new TLV as presented; modify it based on comments received; extend the notice of intent to establish for another year; or retract the limit.

The ACGIH publishes TLVs each year. The group's current list includes TLVs for more than 700 chemical substances and physical agents. Mahar said the committee believes the recommended TLV for hand activity includes recommended exposure levels that nearly all workers can be exposed to without undue harm. "Because use of the hands is fundamental to work, it is not feasible to establish a TLV that will protect all workers," the committee's draft document said. According to the draft, employers using the TLV should be aware of strength differences among occupational groups, genders and ages, and that some workers will experience symptoms at the threshold level.

Mahar said TLVs are recommendations that do not have the force of regulations. The committee believes the TLV on hand activity exhibits good technical judgement based on the available data, Mahar said. Interested parties can submit their comments on the proposed TLV to the committee. To obtain a copy of the draft document, contact ACGIH at (513) 742-2020.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

## **OSHA's New "Plain Language" Workplace Poster (OSHA Pub. 3165)**

- [OSHA's Instructions for the poster](#)
- [The Poster \(PDF file\)](#)

## **OSHA Issues Compliance Directive on the Powered Industrial Truck Operator Training Standard**

The directive provides guidelines to assist compliance officers in enforcing the standard. Officers are encouraged to inquire about the company's training approach, observe forklifts in operation, ensure the employer certifies all the required training, and ensure the evaluations have been completed. View the directive at [http://www.osha-slc.gov/OshDoc/Directive\\_data/CPL\\_2-1\\_28.html](http://www.osha-slc.gov/OshDoc/Directive_data/CPL_2-1_28.html)

## **Revised Laser Standard Released**

The Laser Institute of America has released a Revised Version of ANSI Z136.1, Standard for Safe Use of Lasers. The standard provides information on laser classifications, hazard analysis and control measures for the development of a comprehensive laser program. Contact LIA at (800) 345-2737 or check their web site [at http://www.laserinstitute.org](http://www.laserinstitute.org).

## **ASHRAE Indoor Air**

The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers proposed residential indoor air quality standard has been opened for public review.

Proposed standard 62.2P, Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality in Low Rise Residential Buildings, recommends whole – house mechanical ventilation system for all residential buildings of three or fewer stories.

ASHRAE has also released four addenda to Standard 62-1999, Ventilation for acceptable Indoor air Quality. They address indoor smoking, condensate management, system controls and recirculation quality control.

To obtain electronic drafts during the already passed comment period, visit <http://www.ashrae.org>. Go to their standards section and find the public review drafts section to view the draft if still available.

## **ANSI, Fundamentals Governing the Design and Operation of Local Exhaust Ventilation Systems.**

ANSI Z9.2-1979 (R1991) *Fundamentals Governing the Design and Operation of Local Exhaust Ventilation Systems* is under revision. This standard describes fundamental good practices related to commissioning, design, selection, installation, operation, maintenance and testing of local exhaust ventilation systems used for control of employee exposure to airborne contaminants. It is intended for use by

LEV system owners, employers, industrial hygienists, facilities engineers, maintenance personnel, testing personnel, and ventilation system designers. It is compatible with the ACGIH Industrial Ventilation Manual. Both electronic and paper copies of the draft are available for comment at a cost of \$10. To obtain electronic copies, contact [fkuecker@aiha.org](mailto:fkuecker@aiha.org). Paper copies are available from AIHA Customer Service at (703) 849-8888. Send your comments to Margie Breida by Nov 1, 2000, at fax (703) 207-8558, [mbreida@aiha.org](mailto:mbreida@aiha.org).

**Essential Resources for Industrial Hygiene: A compendium of Current Practice Standards and Guidelines, AIHA.**

<http://www.aiha.org/newpubs.html>

## **JUST THE FACTS**

- Two hundred thousand employees under the age of 18 are injured on the job per year. This includes 70 fatalities. For more information see [www.3ecompany.com](http://www.3ecompany.com).
- According to a NIOSH document, workers who are exposed to “class B biosolids” can be protected through engineering controls, PPE and worker training. Workers are exposed to biosolids when spreading them to fertilized agricultural lands or applying them to mine reclamation sites. See [www.cdc.gov/niosh/hidlist.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hidlist.html).
- Norcardiosis. An estimated 500 to 1,000 cases of Norcardia infection, called norcardiosis, occur annually in the US. Most transmission of norcardiosis is through inhalation of airborne nocardiae. Overall, 80% of these cases are seen as an invasive pulmonary infection, disseminated disease, or brain abscess; while 20% are an inflammation of cellular or connective tissue. For pulmonary disease, the common symptoms are fever, cough, and chest pain. For central nervous system disease, symptoms are usually headache, lethargy, confusion, seizures, and sudden onset of neurologic deficit. Transmission is sometimes through primary cutaneous disease through soil-contaminated wounds. Nosocomial post-surgical transmission rarely occurs.
- **BLS Releases Worker Fatality Data: Deaths Reported Equal 1998 Totals**
  - ✓ The 1999 census reported 6,023 on-the-job fatalities
  - ✓ On the average, 17 workers are killed each day on the job
  - ✓ Motor vehicle accidents are still the No. 1 source, accounting for nearly 25% of the fatalities
  - ✓ Homicides dropped from 2nd to 3rd; with 645 fatalities last year
  - ✓ Occupations with large numbers of fatalities include truck drivers, construction workers, and farm workers.



- ✓ See the full data set at <http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/cfoi.toc.htm>
- NIOSH Director Linda Rosenstock will leave the Institute to become dean of the School of Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles, on Nov. 1.
- Mr. Jeffress expressed no plans to move on before President Clinton leaves office. Many expect Jeffress will have to stay at OSHA to shepherd the ergonomics rule through the final stages of the promulgation process to make sure it comes out by the end of the year. "I'm here to do my job. I've got no plans to leave," he said.
- Construction Ergonomics Study Announced -- NIOSH Seeking Labor, Industry Assistance. A study of ergonomic solutions for the construction industry will begin Oct. 1, NIOSH announced Sept. 14 at a Washington, D.C., meeting of a federal construction health and safety advisory committee meeting.

## ARMY ITEMS OF INTEREST

None

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

This document was prepared for the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHP) PM), Directorate of Occupational Health Sciences. The POC at the USACHPPM is Mrs. Sandra Monk; Program Manager; Industrial Hygiene Management Program; DSN: 584-2439; COM: (410) 436-2439; e-mail: [Sandra.Monk@apg.amedd.army.mil](mailto:Sandra.Monk@apg.amedd.army.mil).

This document summarizes information and regulatory actions that are relevant for Army Industrial Hygiene Program personnel. We distribute this summary in electronic form only. Please make it available to your staff if they do not have direct access to an electronic copy. A copy is posted on the Army IH Program Home Page (<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/Armyih>). If you would like to be added to the electronic mailing list or if your e-mail address changes, please contact Tammy Budkey, e-mail: [tammy.budkey@apg.amedd.army.mil](mailto:tammy.budkey@apg.amedd.army.mil); or call her at DSN: 584-2439; COM: (410) 436-2439; fax: 410.436.8795.

At a minimum; we review the following publications in preparing this summary: [AIHA Journal](#); the [Synergist](#); [Today](#) (ACGIH's Newsletter); The [AAIH Newsletter](#); OSHA Week; the [Federal Register](#); BNA OSHA Reporter; [Applied Occupational and Environmental Hygiene](#); The [Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine](#); The Journal of Environmental Health, [Professional Safety](#); Safety and Health, [Occupational Hazards](#); [Occupational Health and Safety](#); and [Industrial Safety and Hygiene News](#). We also gather information from a variety of sources on the Internet using the Army IH Program Home Page as our gateway (<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/ArmyIH>)



If you have questions or comments, please contact Jim Evenden at [jevenden@lmi.org](mailto:jevenden@lmi.org); (410) 638-2081/2086 (voice) or 2093 (fax).